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Chairperson: Ms. Intelmann ..... (Estonia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 56: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(a) Third United Nations Conference of the Least Developed Countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.37)

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.35)

1. **Ms. Balli** (Togo) said that, despite evidence of some progress, the recent High-Level Meeting of the Least Developed Countries had revealed a negative picture overall. That was partly because insufficient resources had been mobilized to support the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, but mostly because those countries lacked the capacity to draw up coherent and credible development programmes and to mobilize and manage the available internal and external resources. Their inability to assume responsibility for their economic and social development presented an enormous challenge, both to themselves and to their development partners. The efforts of the least developed countries should be supported by a spirit of shared responsibility within the context of a genuine partnership. In his report on the midterm comprehensive global review (A/61/173), the Secretary-General rightly recommended that the focus of attention for the remainder of the Programme of Action should be the full implementation of the Brussels Programme.

2. Despite its efforts to achieve macroeconomic stabilization and introduce structural reforms, Togo had encountered enormous difficulties in its implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action, due in part to the suspension of international technical and financial assistance. It had nonetheless begun to draft a long-term development strategy, which would include the preparation of a second-generation Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). A national political accord had also been agreed, with a view to achieving reconciliation, social cohesion, and development.

3. **Mr. Al-Azmi** (Kuwait) noted that the Secretary-General's report highlighted the efforts made in a large number of least developed countries, which had amended their strategies in order to improve governance, promote democracy and strengthen the judiciary and the legal system. Reforms had also been undertaken in the public sector to end corruption, promote the role of the private sector and improve efficiency.

4. Those countries were faced with a number of grave problems, including the prevalence of malaria and tuberculosis and, particularly in Africa, high rates of HIV/AIDS. The vulnerable countries were experiencing extremely difficult economic circumstances, due in large measure to their geograpnical situation, and needed support from international development partnerships. The developed countries should support the economic structures of the developing countries, including the least developed countries, and honour their commitments, to provide financial and technical assistance, by allocating 0.2 per cent of gross national product to development assistance.

5. Ever since gaining its political independence, the State of Kuwait had understood the importance of development for the countries of the South and had sought to do all in its power to fulfil its commitments to the developing countries. Aware of the contribution that could be made by trade liberalization and by increased investment in developing countries to promote sustainable development, Kuwait had revised its economic and trade legislation in order to stimulate development, promote its own integration into the world economic system and encourage foreign and local investment, and in 1998, had established a free trade zone.

6. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development had helped more than 100 States throughout the world, disbursing US$ 10.5 billion in assistance. In addition, humanitarian and financial aid had been granted to numerous countries and peoples affected by natural disasters. Kuwait's petroleum-based economy and development had enabled it to promote development in more diversified sectors of economic life, thereby achieving sustainable development. While Kuwait needed to safeguard the infrastructure of its petroleum industry and guarantee it adequate technological resources, at the same time it recognized the need to respect the environment and to provide necessary

assistance to its neighbours, in a spirit of solidarity among South countries.

7. **Mr. Acharya** (Nepal) said that the measures outlined in the reports under consideration (A/61/82, A/61/173 and A/61/302) were critically important to the effective implementation of the various programmes of action for the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries. In particular, the seven commitments of the Brussels Programme of Action and the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA) should be effectively implemented.

8. The recent High-Level Meeting of the Least Developed Countries had revealed the continuing precarious situation of those countries and the need for additional and effective measures, as identified in the Cotonou Strategy, for the further implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action. It was time to begin extensive preparation for the comprehensive midterm review of the APoA. The United Nations had a crucial role to play in that process, and the review should aim to build constructive partnerships and further strengthen the implementation of the agreed Programme of Action for the landlocked developing countries.

9. Nepal's current development plan focused on broad-based growth and a pro-poor approach, and the recent historic settlement reached by the Government and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) had paved the way for its political transformation. However, as a country emerging from conflict as well as a landlocked and least developed country, Nepal would require significant assistance from its development partners to implement the agreed programmes of action and national reconstruction and rehabilitation projects. The international community was well placed to provide assistance in the areas of trade concessions, debt relief and ODA.

10. The United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions must integrate and mainstream their efforts through the specifically designed partnership frameworks agreed in the Brussels Programme and the APoA. There was an equally critical need for good governance at the global level, designed to ensure that the special needs and concerns of the poorest countries received focused attention.

11. **Ms. Veiga** (Cape Verde) said that the recent High-Level Meeting of the Least Developed Countries had provided a unique opportunity for the international community to review the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action. Despite showing evidence of progress, the Meeting had also revealed that much more needed to be done to achieve the agreed targets and goals of the Programme. The Programme's degree of implementation varied from country to country and region to region, and the results in most least developed countries had been weak.

12. The Cotonou Strategy adopted in July 2006 had reiterated the political will and commitment of the least developed countries to accept the development challenge, but the support of the international community was vital. Although the Brussels Programme could set those countries on the path to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, her delegation had been somewhat concerned, during the preparations for the midterm review of the Programme's implementation, at the scope of the respective commitments envisaged for the least developed countries and their development partners.

13. The implementation of the Brussels Programme had been constrained by several factors, notably limited resources and institutional capacities. Developed countries that had not yet done so should therefore fulfil their ODA commitment to the least developed countries. Although the improved market access initiative taken by some World Trade Organization (WTO) members was welcome, the suspension of the Doha Round was regrettable. Cape Verde also welcomed the suggestion made by the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States that major oil-producing countries should contribute 10 cents per barrel produced to the cost of infrastructure development in the least developed countries, over the next decade.

14. Her delegation welcomed the work done by the Committee for Development Policy to refine the criteria for inclusion in and graduation from the list of least developed countries. It was particularly pleased that, in the view of the Committee, there was scope and need for further methodological refinements in the design and application of the criteria. The Committee should consider introducing the Economic Vulnerability Index as the main criterion, and her delegation also welcomed the Committee's view that in view of the high incidence of HIV/AIDS, life expectancy at birth should be included in the Human Asset Index. Cape Verde was working with its development partners to ensure a smooth transition

from the list of least developed countries, and had set up a smooth transition support group, comprising a small number of bilateral and multilateral partners, to define a framework of cooperation for the period after its graduation in January 2008.

15. **Mr. Al-Mannai** (Qatar) observed that the sixth Ministerial Conference of WTO had recognized that customs duties and quotas constituted obstacles to the least developed countries' access to world markets, and had set 2008 as the starting date for duty-free and quota-free market access for products originating from least developed countries. It was to be hoped that the requisite political will would be found to meet that target.

16. The developing countries had had high hopes of the trade negotiations held in the framework of the Doha Round in June 2006 and had been most disappointed by their failure. Qatar hoped that they would be restarted as soon as possible, so that they could be concluded in 2007; that was of paramount importance if the Millennium Development Goals were to be achieved.

17. While the least developed countries must shoulder their own responsibilities in designing and implementing their own development strategies, achieving the goals of the Brussels Programme of Action, would require a strengthening of genuine development partnerships in order to build capacity and mobilize resources, especially in Africa. There was also a need to find a solution to the problem of some countries' excessive indebtedness, which was draining most of those countries' resources.

18. Qatar had always acted as a fully fledged partner in the efforts of the least developed countries, both to eliminate poverty and to obtain a more equitable share of the fruits of globalization. Qatar had been honoured to host the fourth Ministerial Conference of WTO in 2004, from which the Doha agenda had resulted, and had also hosted the Second South Summit in 2005, at which the Emir of Qatar had introduced the initiative of establishing the Doha Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance.

19. Qatar fully intended to allocate the appropriate share of its gross national product to development assistance. Furthermore, during the General Assembly special session on financing for development, it had offered to host the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development. Finally, Qatar had made a donation of US$ 10 million to the United Nations Democracy Fund.

20. **Mr. Abreha** (Ethiopia) said that, five years previously, the least developed countries and their development partners had made a commitment to address the development challenges of the poorest segment of the international community. Although the results achieved were mixed, they were encouraging by historical standards. The challenge for the international community was to intensify its efforts to meet the agreed goals by the target date. The progress achieved in GDP growth and the social sector was encouraging, and improvements had also been noted in access to drinking water and sanitation.

21. Lack of infrastructure had been one of the main constraints in the development efforts of the least developed countries, which had been unable to benefit fully from market access provisions, largely because of supply-side constraints. The Aid for Trade Initiative should be implemented in order to address that issue. As outlined in the Secretary-General's report (A/61/82-E/2006/74), agriculture and rural development should be targets for poverty reduction in the least developed countries. Ethiopia had achieved significant improvements in development by adopting that focus. It had also made progress in democratic decentralization, democratic governance and judicial reforms, and had intensified its efforts to improve its roads and expand access to electricity. However, much remained to be done, particularly with regard to HIV/AIDS and under-five and maternal mortality. Ethiopia's socio-economic constraints were vast and deep-rooted, and it urged its development partners to provide assistance in its struggle to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development.

22. The development challenges of the least developed countries were overwhelming. According to the 2005 Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme, more than 1 billion people lived in abject poverty. Achieving the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action in the least developed countries would contribute significantly towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Efforts to eradicate poverty should be placed at the top of the international agenda for development cooperation.

23. Remoteness from world markets, combined with prohibitive transport costs and risks, had imposed

significant constraints on export earnings, private capital flows and mobilization of domestic resources in landlocked developing countries. As a result, they were more vulnerable to external shocks, which in turn hampered their overall economic growth and development. In order to mitigate their high trade transaction costs, greater market access should be provided for their exports. Increased and immediate technical assistance should also be given to landlocked developing countries, in order to ensure their effective participation in WTO trade negotiations, notably those relating to trade facilitation.

24. Landlocked developing countries must have the right of access to and from the sea, as well as freedom of transit through the territories of transit countries. Addressing the special difficulties of the landlocked developing countries required the effective implementation of the Almaty Declaration and Programme of Action, and his delegation therefore fully supported the proposal to hold a midterm review of the Programme's implementation.

25. **Mr. Butagira** (Uganda) said that the Brussels Programme of Action offered the most tangible promise of attaining socio-economic progress in the least developed countries, but would not yield results without adequate support from the international community. Trade liberalization in itself would not benefit those countries unless they also received resources that would help them develop a competitive advantage, diversify away from volatile commodity markets, add value to their exports, reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports, and attract the right kind of foreign investment. The Doha Development Agenda should be revived to help the least developed countries introduce reforms and meet the costs of adjusting to open markets and globalization.

26. His delegation was disappointed that, owing to difficulties in agreeing on fundamental issues, a good opportunity had been missed at the High-level Meeting to define future development priorities within the framework of the Cotonou Strategy. All Member States had an obligation to provide more funding to save millions of people from dehumanizing poverty, and the Monterrey Consensus recognized that imperative.

27. In Uganda, transport costs hindered trade promotion and posed a major obstacle to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. His Government had been part of a regional effort to establish a transit regime for the Great Lakes region. It was engaged in policy reforms to increase operational efficiency on the main artery linking Uganda to the Kenyan seaport of Mombasa, and the agreement between Uganda and Kenya was being revised to transform the transit corridor into an economic development corridor. The Kenya-Uganda railway system had been privatized and its services improved, and a cooperation agreement between Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda would streamline cross-border operations and provide Uganda with access to a second seaport at Dar es Salaam.

28. In addition, more must be done in the vital areas of trade facilitation, infrastructure development and regional integration. Increased support was needed to help landlocked developing countries implement the Almaty Programme of Action, particularly through a regional approach to infrastructure development, such as projects carried out under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). South-South cooperation could play a vital role and should be promoted. At the global level, the varying circumstances of landlocked developing countries should be taken into account, for example, through the granting of preferential market access to offset high transaction costs and maintain their competitiveness in the international market.

29. **Ms. Say** (Turkey) said that her Government was fully committed to implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action and was pleased with progress so far. The least developed countries had made laudable efforts to improve their productive capacities, governance and macroeconomic performance and to institute structural reforms, trade liberalization and privatization. They were also to be congratulated for developing the Cotonou Strategy.

30. Despite those noteworthy efforts, extreme poverty appeared to be increasing in many of the least developed countries, while life expectancy was declining. Most were affected by HIV/AIDS and some by civil strife. That situation was morally unacceptable. Further efforts were needed to help those countries meet the goals and targets of the Programme.

31. Her Government had provided substantial ODA to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing countries, amounting to 0.17 per cent of GDP in 2005. It had also increased its humanitarian assistance, benefiting 17

African countries, and a number of projects were currently being implemented by the country's main international development agency.

32. Her Government was ready to cooperate with the least developed countries in agriculture, health, environment and good governance, as well as by helping those countries to attract Turkish investors and establish joint business councils or chambers of commerce.

33. Her Government supported the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in part through contributions to the Trust Fund, and would continue to do so.

34. **Mr. Seyoum** (Eritrea) said that achievement of the Millennium Development Goals would directly contribute to the success of the Programme of Action for the least developed countries. Thirty-four out of the 50 least developed countries were on the African continent, and thousands of people died each day in sub-Saharan Africa. The continent would have 40 million AIDS orphans by 2010 if action was not taken immediately to halt that disease. Thousands more died each day from hunger or hunger-related illness, three quarters of them children under the age of five. Millions of people in the developing world suffered from long-term or acute illnesses, and 1 million died each year of malaria, a preventable disease.

35. In September 2000, the international community had promised the world's poor that by 2015 poverty would be cut in half, the under-five and maternal death rate would be reduced by two thirds, the spread of HIV/AIDS would be reversed and malaria eliminated. Recent reports, including the 2005 annual report of the Millennium Trust Fund, were suggesting that those promises might not be met. The United Nations system should not use the reform process as an excuse to delay the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, to which Member States should recommit themselves.

36. His Government had invested millions of dollars, especially on infrastructure for food security, to achieve the Goals and hoped that Eritrea would soon graduate from the list of least developed countries. All countries had to do their best: for rich and middle-income countries, that could mean changing their consumption patterns and sharing the savings with the poor. For the poor nations, that could mean good governance, effective use of aid funds, fighting corruption, accountability, and the like.

37. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals would bring security to the troubled world order. The Goals were human rights, and constituted the flagship of the development agenda of the United Nations. Politics should not divide the world and prevent it from helping people when there were enough resources to ease their hunger and pain.

38. Sadly, for many people in the developing world, especially in Africa, the past of poverty and strife was also the present. He dreamed of a future without hungry children, with sharply reduced levels of poverty, where the spread of HIV/AIDS had been halted and all eight Goals had been quickly met. The world community had been talking about those things for too long, but with little action. It was time to turn promises, pledges and initiatives into real commitments that would benefit humanity.

39. **Mr. Diallo** (Guinea) welcomed the least developed countries' progress, particularly in improved economic performance, social indicators, and governance, and their development partners' efforts regarding development assistance and debt reduction. Nevertheless, those efforts fell far short of the goals that had been set to break the cycle of poverty in the least developed countries.

40. To ensure that development goals did not remain empty promises for some countries, the entire international community must rise to the task. The least developed countries must make even greater efforts to build on their achievements and undertake bold new actions. Development partners, and the developed countries in particular, must do their part by increasing the amount and quality of development aid, reducing external debt loads, and removing the obstacles to exports. Indeed, it was the least developed countries that suffered most from the blockage in the Doha Round of trade negotiations.

41. The least developed countries were well aware that current trends must be reversed, lest they become further marginalized by globalization. For that reason, they had adopted the Cotonou Strategy earlier in 2006 to overcome obstacles they had encountered during implementation of the Programme.

42. The Government of Guinea had adopted its first Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper in 2002, and was currently preparing a second paper that would focus on the Millennium Development Goals and the commitments set out in the Programme of Action. It would result in significant projects and programmes on equity and governance, while human and institutional capacity would also be developed in education, health, rural development and infrastructure.

43. His delegation believed that the current negative trend in implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action was not inevitable and that its goals, objectives and targets could still be reached as long as all parties remained resolved to fulfil their commitments.

Draft resolution on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and draft resolution on groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

44. **Mr. Le Roux** (South Africa), introducing draft resolutions A/C.2/61/L.37 and L.35 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, emphasized the importance of full implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, especially the seven commitments contained therein, as well as of full and timely implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in making a start on lifting millions of people out of abject poverty and hunger.

Agenda item 59: Training and research

(a) United Nations University (A/61/31; A/C.2/61/CRP.3)

(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/61/14)

45. **Mr. van Ginkel** (Rector, United Nations University (UNU)), introducing the report of the Council of the United Nations University (A/61/31), said that, while much had been done to enhance coordination and create synergies, more needed to be done in the system as a whole. The appointment of the new Director of the United Nations Staff College had provided a further opportunity to enhance cooperation in training activities. It was important to pay attention not only to differences in the governance and financing of different institutions but also to the differences in their missions, target groups and activities. UNU was fully prepared to contribute to targeted and sustained efforts to strengthen the United Nations research and training system, and to take initiatives wherever appropriate and possible.

46. The University had been enjoying steady and harmonious growth, both quantitatively and qualitatively, in its activities and outreach, and as an institution; the relevance, quality and impact of its work had grown significantly. Its real strength lay in its power to convene experts on a worldwide scale. An external evaluation of UNU was to be conducted in 2007.

47. During the reporting period, new institutes had come into being in Belgium and Germany, and in May 2006 agreements had been signed with the Government of Malaysia to establish a UNU International Institute for Global Health in Kuala Lumpur, in cooperation with the World Health Organization. UNU was developing major joint programmes with selected associated institutions around the world, and had enjoyed resounding success with the mobilization action to promote Education for Sustainable Development through a network of some 30 Regional Centres of Expertise, comprising schools, universities, communications media, museums, NGOs and private companies. Some of UNU's substantive contributions to the work of the United Nations had been in relation to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, open source software, and peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

48. **Mr. Boisard** (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)), introducing his report (A/61/14), said that the Institute's achievements in the past two years had been due to strict administrative and financial management, the development of new pedagogic methodologies and the continual search for partnerships and networking opportunities.

49. The financial situation continued to be generally satisfactory, with expenditure under the Special Purpose Grants expected to increase to about US$ 25 million during the current biennium. The General Fund remained vulnerable, but its situation was improving thanks to a modest increase in

voluntary contributions from Member States and a noticeable increase in revenue from programme support costs (overheads). Total expenditure from the General Fund had amounted in the last biennium to US$ 2.4 million and should reach US$ 4 million in the current biennium. He gave three examples of the ways in which UNITAR had developed innovative training methodologies at national level (practical lessons learned from public participation in decisions on the environment in South Africa), at the level of the United Nations system (assistance to the United Nations Environment Programme for a survey of all environmental activities) and globally for all Member States (e-learning). He also drew attention to the list of almost 350 UNITAR partnerships and networks (A/61/14, annex VI), pointing out that they were supplemented by a more permanent and better structured network of 12 International Training Centres for Local Authorities/Actors (CIFALs), established by UNITAR on all continents.

50. On the issue of the review of UNITAR's mandate, he said that the Institute's programmes almost exclusively addressed the personnel of Member States rather than United Nations personnel. They currently covered just two major subject areas: training in the management of international affairs (diplomacy, negotiation, preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution and international law) and in economic and social development (basically, the application of international legal instruments and the training of local governments in implementing and applying the Millennium Development Goals at local level). The question was whether training could be made more effective by the better integration of institutes and research institutions, which would preserve their own goals and localized status. One solution might be to establish a single institution to manage all the complex and disparate elements. Another possible longer-term solution would be, if and when the conclusions of the report of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence were implemented, to integrate research and training in all the Organization's programmes, thereby enabling the United Nations agencies to develop their own expertise and no longer systematically need costly outside consultants. The Board of Trustees had initiated a specific in-depth analysis of the matter and hoped to be able to make a genuine contribution to the reform process undertaken by the Secretariat.

51. **Mr. Turk** (Estonia), noting that his country had expressed its support for the UNITAR Decentralized Cooperation Programme by opening a CIFAL in Tallinn in 2006, asked the Executive Director to elaborate on the Institute's cooperation, in its Decentralized Cooperation Programme, with other United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and to explain how the Institute's training activities were linked with other United Nations development activities in developing countries.

52. **Mr. Boisard** (Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research) replied that UNITAR had established two CIFALs in Africa, two in Asia, two in the Americas and five in Europe. Each Centre provided training focusing on new techniques. The new Centre in Tallinn would serve countries in the Baltic region, the former Soviet Union region and southern Africa and would focus on training in information and communications technologies. UNITAR was grateful for the assistance provided by the Estonian Government and Tallinn's municipal authorities.

53. UNITAR had received a very positive response from large multinational companies to the public-private partnership initiative and had drafted guidelines to ensure that the Institute did not become involved in commercial activities or appear to be representing donor companies. The Global Compact Office planned to publish the guidelines in its next newsletter and recommend that the organizations of the United Nations system should consider applying them in their negotiations and agreements with private sector actors.

54. The Institute would like the CIFALs to serve the entire United Nations system. It was currently sponsoring a workshop at its Centre in Atlanta, Georgia, with the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and UNDP and had worked with UNEP, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and, in particular, the World Bank.

55. **Mr. Amolo** (Kenya) said that UNITAR and the United Nations University played an important role in building competencies in diplomacy for the international community.

56. With regard to the University, he noted that the strength, weakness, opportunity and threat (SWOT)

analysis annexed to the printed text of the Rector's statement to the Committee indicated that UNU had the perception that it was no longer a "unique" institution as a network of networks and that it lacked sufficient coordination with other entities. The Report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment might begin to address that concern.

57. The list of ways in which UNU planned to improve its effectiveness that was annexed to the Rector's statement included the establishment of a stronger institutional presence in New York, Geneva, Paris and Bonn. He was surprised that no reference had been made to Vienna and, in particular, Nairobi, given the presence in Nairobi of UNEP.

58. With regard to UNITAR, he wished to know what activities the Institute carried out in Nairobi. His delegation agreed that some UNITAR costs should be charged to the United Nations regular budget, as suggested in paragraph 10 of the report of the UNITAR Board of Trustees. With respect to paragraph 14 of the report, he said that the countries of East Africa would welcome closer cooperation with UNITAR, in particular on capacity-building for urban security, urban management, and parliaments.

59. **Mr. van Ginkel** (Rector, United Nations University), referring to the SWOT analysis, said that, although it was not necessary for the University to be unique in order for it to make a valuable contribution, it planned to address the concern expressed in the analysis by developing closer cooperation with other entities in the United Nations research and training system.

60. As to the Kenyan representative's question concerning the University's institutional presence in Vienna and Nairobi, he said that discussions were in progress between UNU and the Government of Slovakia on the establishment of a research and training centre on landscape and ecosystem health that would be located in Bratislava, very close to Vienna.

61. The University maintained close cooperation with UNEP and its institutional presence in Nairobi was based on that strong relationship. It also had a presence in Addis Ababa through its link with the local office of the International Livestock Research Institute of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research in that city. UNU endeavoured to increase cooperation and enhance system development bearing in mind the institutional infrastructure already in place in various locations.

62. **Mr. Boisard** (Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research), replying to the questions from the representative of Kenya, said that for eight years UNITAR had been conducting training courses for diplomats accredited to organizations of the United Nations system located in Nairobi, New York, Geneva and Vienna, as the major centres of United Nations activity. In accordance with a number of General Assembly resolutions, in 2006 the Institute had begun to organize courses in other cities hosting multilateral organizations and had already done so at the regional commissions in Beirut, Santiago, Bangkok and Addis Ababa.

63. Africa was a priority for UNITAR, and in the previous biennium over 900 Kenyans had received training from the Institute. One UNITAR e-learning programme was devoted to debt and financial management. Another, very successful, e-learning course was offered for academic credit to participants from countries that contributed forces to peacekeeping operations. In that connection, he thanked the Governments of Norway and Canada for defraying the course fee for participants requiring financial assistance.

64. UNITAR was keenly aware of the importance of providing its services to countries most in need of them, in particular the developing countries.

65. **Mr. Hannesson** (Iceland) said that his Government was very proud to host the University's Geothermal Training Programme and the Fisheries Training Programme. Sustainable development was one of the pillars of his Government's policy on development cooperation. Information and training on sustainable development were vital for long-term development worldwide and his country would therefore remain committed to those two programmes.

66. Since the founding of the Geothermal Training Programme in 1979, 359 scientists and engineers from 40 countries had completed the annual six-month specialized course. A Master of Science programme had been established in 2000 in cooperation with the University of Iceland. His Government had also secured core funding for the Programme to expand its capacity-building activities through annual workshops and short courses in selected countries in Africa,

Central America and Asia. Budget proposals called for an increase in core funding of 30 per cent for the Programme.

67. Thus far, 103 fellows, including 36 women, from 20 countries had completed the Fisheries Training Programme. Funding from the Government for that Programme had increased by nearly 40 per cent from 2004-2005 and would increase further in the coming financial year.

68. **Mr. Owoaje** (Nigeria) said that his country appreciated the training programmes and activities of UNITAR and welcomed the increasing diversification of its services. His delegation hoped that the extension of the UNITAR training programme for civilian personnel in peacekeeping operations to include the special needs of women and children in conflict would help stem sexual abuse of women and children by United Nations peacekeeping personnel.

69. His delegation appreciated the partnership approach of UNITAR in seeking the involvement and commitment of national and regional institutions to tailor its programmes to their priorities and the Institute's policy of designing its programmes in collaboration with beneficiary Governments in order to ensure national ownership.

70. The Institute deserved the collective moral and financial support of Member States. A solution should therefore be found expeditiously to the unresolved issue of the Institute's rental and maintenance costs in New York and Geneva in order to remove that unacceptable burden. It was also imperative to find ways to increase voluntary contributions to the General Fund.

71. **Mr. Kodera** (Japan) said that the United Nations University currently had an expanded role to play, since the World Summit Outcome adopted in 2005 had underscored the importance of the four main issues on which UNU focused: peace and security; good governance, development and poverty reduction; science, technology and society; and environment and sustainability. The University must evolve further in order to fulfil its mandate.

72. UNU had proved its value by organizing courses, seminars and other events, in connection, inter alia, with the World Summit on the Information Society and the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. As a think tank for the United Nations system, the University should carry out more such activities and should identify areas where research and capacity-building were needed by working closely with the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations. In addition, its outputs should be disseminated more widely and in more accessible form. In that way, topical research could influence United Nations policymaking and UNU could distinguish itself clearly from non-United Nations research institutions.

73. The University must continue to pursue internal reform, especially at its headquarters in Japan. To that end, UNU should make its activities more practical and timely; intensify its public relations efforts concerning its work, outputs and dialogues with host countries, Member States and the United Nations system; streamline and improve administrative management and implement its projects in an efficient and cost-effective manner; diversify its budgetary resources to ensure a sound funding base for its activities; and use the planned external evaluation as a means to strengthen its role as a think tank for the United Nations system. With those points in mind, his delegation would introduce a draft resolution prepared in close collaboration with the University.

74. Lastly, he said that his Government highly appreciated the significant contribution by the outgoing Rector of UNU in strengthening its activities and increasing its effectiveness and visibility.

75. **Ms. Say** (Turkey) said that her delegation was pleased that the training activities of UNITAR and the number of participants in those activities had increased significantly over the previous two years. She also welcomed the fact that all the programmes were self-funded.

76. UNITAR's continuing close work with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations described in paragraph 19 of its report (A/61/31) was a very positive development. However, some of the course materials still contained irrelevant texts based on inaccurate, one-sided and unsubstantiated allegations, a situation regarding which her delegation had expressed its serious concern in the Committee at the preceding session following the adoption of the draft resolution on UNITAR.

77. Inasmuch as the Institute had not taken action to correct the texts in question, her delegation reiterated the urgent need for better screening of the content of

the Institute's course materials. Turkey strongly believed that the Institute should uphold the principles of objectivity and reliability in its activities. Her country did not wish to lose confidence in UNITAR and requested the Institute to consider the issue seriously and take the required action.

78. **Mr. Boisard** (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research) said that he believed there had been a misunderstanding. UNITAR had received the information from the Turkish delegation in Geneva and had made the requested corrections without delay. The new text was available.

Draft resolution on the United Nations University

79. **Mr. Kodera** (Japan), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.36, expressed the hope that it would raise awareness of the activities of the United Nations University and that many delegations would join the list of sponsors.

Agenda item 57: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.22)

Draft resolution on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

80. **Ms. Kia** (South Africa), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the fact that 1 billion people were still living in abject poverty at the end of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty was the reason why the sponsors urged the proclamation of a second Decade.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/61/SR.30

General Assembly
Sixty-first session

Official Records

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5 December 2006

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 30th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 17 November 2006, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Intelmann ..... (Estonia)

Contents

Agenda item 57: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (*continued*)

(b) Industrial development cooperation (*continued*)

Agenda item 59: Training and research (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (*continued*)

Agenda item 69: Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (*continued*)

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions (*continued*)

Agenda item 53: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*)

Agenda item 58: Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*)

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Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

06-61944 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 57: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.39)

Draft resolution on the role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty

1. **Mr. Le Roux** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.39 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(b) Industrial development cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.40)

Draft resolution on industrial cooperation

2. **Mr. Le Roux** (South Africa) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.40 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 59: Training and research (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (*continued*)

Draft decision (A/C.2/61/L.38)

3. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Committee) pointed out that document A/C.2/61/L.38 was a draft decision, not a draft resolution. Accordingly, the required technical corrections would be made and the document would be reissued.

4. **Mr. Le Roux** (South Africa) introduced draft decision A/C.2/61/L.38 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and urged its adoption.

Agenda item 69 : Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (*continued*)

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.43)

Draft resolution on special economic assistance to Côte d'Ivoire

5. **Mr. Buende** (Namibia), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.43 on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the dumping of more than 500 tons of toxic waste of still unknown origin in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in August 2006 constituted a serious violation of human rights tantamount to a crime against humanity, and was a gross violation of international conventions and regulations on toxic waste management. The African Group highly appreciated the efforts of the European Union to identify the perpetrator and pledged to work with all concerned individuals and entities to ensure that the perpetrator was brought to justice. The sponsors encouraged other delegations to support the draft resolution.

Agenda item 53: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.18 and A/C.2/61/L.42)

Draft resolution on follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

6. **The Chairperson** drew attention to draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.42, which had been submitted by Mr. Fonseca Filho, Vice-Chairman, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.18.

7. **Ms. Pliner** (Secretary of the Committee), said that she wished to read out the statement of programme budget implications arising from draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.42 on behalf of the Programme Planning and Budget Division. The statement was also being circulated to the members of the Committee at the meeting.

8. With reference to paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, provision had been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 for implementing the resolution. Therefore, should the Second Committee adopt draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.42, there would be no requirement for additional provisions.

Requirements for the biennium 2008-2009 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for that biennium.

9. The attention of the Committee was drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the General Assembly had reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and had reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.42 was adopted.*

11. **Mr. Niño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) reaffirmed his delegation's strong support for the full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

12. However, paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States referred to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which his country was not a party. Venezuela considered that it was not subject to the provisions of that Convention under international customary law, with the exception of those it had expressly incorporated into its domestic legislation, and that it therefore was not bound by paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Strategy.

13. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.18 was withdrawn.*

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.28 and A/C.2/61/L.44)

Draft resolution on natural disasters and vulnerability

14. **The Chairperson** informed the Committee that draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.44, submitted by Mr. Fonseca Filho, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.28, had no programme budget implications.

15. **Mr. Fonseca Filho** (Brazil), Vice-Chairman, recommended that the Committee should adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.44 was adopted.*

17. **Mr. Snowden** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of position, said that his country was deeply committed to disaster reduction and had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution in order to show its support for the concept of disaster reduction, including programmes and efforts to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards.

18. However, his delegation remained concerned about any resolutions or language regarding an increase in the frequency of natural hazards. It saw no objective evidence of such an increase to support the language in the tenth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution and none had been provided during the negotiations on the text. Such language in any context must be justified year by year in order to be effective and to accurately reflect the situation. His delegation intended to raise the issue at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

19. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.28 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 58: Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.32/Rev.1)

Draft resolution on the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Children's Fund

20. **The Chairperson** informed the Committee that draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.32/Rev.1 had no programme budget implications.

21. **Mr. Gerus** (Belarus), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.32/Rev.1 on behalf of the sponsors, said that it reflected the consensus reached in informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.32. The major objective was to provide the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with a clear political message of support from the General Assembly.

22. Subsequent to the issuance of draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.32/Rev.1 the following delegations had joined the list of sponsors: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Dominica, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, the Federated States of Micronesia, Gabon, the

Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, the Sudan, Tajikistan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

23. The draft resolution was the only one that had been introduced under the agenda item on operational activities for development. The sponsors requested the Rapporteur of the Committee and the Secretariat to prepare the report of the Committee on the item as soon as possible and transmit it to the General Assembly as a matter of priority so that the General Assembly would be able to adopt the draft resolution in time to hold a meeting in December commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the operations of UNICEF, as called for in paragraph 5.

24. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.32/Rev.1 was adopted.*

25. **The Chairperson** said that, if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for 2004 contained in document A/61/77-E/2006/59 and of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women contained in document A/61/292.

26. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/61/SR.31

General Assembly
Sixty-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
14 December 2006

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 31st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 22 November 2006, at 3.30 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Intelmann ..... (Estonia)

Contents

Agenda item 42: Report of the Economic and Social Council

Agenda item 51: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(b) International financial system and development (*continued*)

Agenda item 53: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*)

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*)

Agenda item 59: Training and research (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (*continued*)

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Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

06-62639 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

Agenda item 42: Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/C.2/61/L.46)

Draft resolution on the proclamation of international years

1. **Mr. Bialek** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and Finland, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.46. It addressed an important issue which had arisen during negotiations on the draft resolution on the international year of natural fibres (A/C.2/61/L.2) but which it had been decided should be pursued in a separate, parallel resolution.

Agenda item 51: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(b) International financial system and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.3 and L.41)

Draft resolutions on the international financial system and development

2. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.41, which was being submitted by Ms. Gomes (Portugal), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.3. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

3. **Ms. Gomes** (Portugal), Rapporteur, expressed appreciation to the facilitator for the efforts made to achieve consensus.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.41 was adopted.*

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.3 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 53: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.23/Rev.1)

Draft resolution on the oil slick on Lebanese shores

6. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.23/Rev.1, which was being submitted by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. **Ms. Zia** (South Africa) said that in the fifth preambular paragraph, the word "donor" should be deleted before the word "Conference". She also announced that Cyprus, France, Greece and Spain had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Lastly, she informed the Committee that errors had been discovered in the Spanish and Arabic versions of the draft resolution. She reserved the right to bring those errors to the attention of the Secretariat.

8. **The Chairperson** informed the Committee that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.23/Rev.1, as orally revised.

9. **Mr. Mally** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that his delegation wished to express its condolences to the people of Lebanon for the tragic loss of the Industry Minister Mr. Pierre Gemayel. The United States supported the Lebanese people's desire to live in peace. However, it could not support the draft resolution, which used one-sided and unbalanced language and placed demands on one party to the conflict while failing to acknowledge the role of those responsible for initiating the hostilities in Lebanon in the summer of 2006. It was Hizbollah that had provoked the conflict with its incursion into Israel on 12 July. That fact was not acknowledged in the draft resolution.

10. The United States regretted the pollution of the shores of Lebanon resulting from the destruction of oil storage tanks in the vicinity of the Lebanese El-Jiyeh electric power plant. However, the Committee had important responsibilities and should not be used to advance one-sided and unbalanced views. In particular, it was inappropriate for the Committee to take a position on Israel's responsibilities to compensate Lebanon for damage caused during the course of an armed conflict.

11. **Mr. Fluss** (Israel) said that the draft resolution was a blatant attempt to politicize an issue of environmental concern and paint Israel, once again, as the unjust aggressor. It joined the litany of one-sided resolutions that flowed out of the General Assembly each year. The Committee must not allow politicization to infiltrate its work, as it distracted attention from issues of substance and relevance.

12. The draft resolution omitted a crucial detail relating to the context of the events described. It did not mention the entire reason for the conflict — namely, that on 12 July 2006 Hizbollah terrorists had

crossed an internationally recognized border into Israel and kidnapped and killed Israeli soldiers. Had the Government of Lebanon exercised its sovereignty and fulfilled the conditions demanded of it by Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), the conflict would not have occurred. But the Government of Lebanon had been derelict in its duty and irresponsibly allowed the growth of a "state within a State", and now the peoples and land of Lebanon and Israel were paying the price.

13. In response to Hizbollah's attack, Israel had done what any other country would have done: defend and protect the lives of its citizens and eliminate the impending threat. As 4,000 Katyusha rockets had rained down on Israeli towns and citizens, it had been Israel's moral duty to defend its people. The obligation of a responsible Government was first and foremost to its citizenry. The same could not be said for the Government of Lebanon, which had ignored its people and its land and allowed terrorists to hijack both.

14. That was not to say that there was no reason for concern regarding the environmental health and vitality of Lebanon's coast. Professional agencies — including United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) — were assessing and addressing the situation on the ground, in ways that would accomplish far more than the draft resolution. Moreover, if the sponsors were earnest in their desire to address the development ramifications of the conflict, they would have mentioned the more than half a million trees and 52,000 dunams of forest that had burnt down in Israel as a result of fires caused by Hizbollah rockets; the 25 Israeli cement and asbestos buildings that had been damaged, polluting an area of 20,000 square metres; or the direct hit by a Katyusha rocket on a sludge-thickening plant in Tzafat. The omission of reference to those environmental catastrophes in Israel proved that the draft resolution was an act of political demonization.

15. Israel urged those Member States that believed in authentically addressing the challenges and responsibilities of the Committee to distance themselves from yet another act of partisan politicking. That was not the way to deal responsibly with matters requiring genuine attention.

16. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.23/Rev.1, as orally revised.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

El Salvador.

17. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.23/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted by 138 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.**

18. **Mr. Bowman** (Canada), speaking in explanation of vote after the voting, said that his delegation was concerned at the serious impact of the oil spill on the Lebanese coastline and beyond. However, it had decided to vote against the draft resolution because the General Assembly was not the appropriate forum to address questions of legal liability or compensation for the cost of repairing environmental damage.

19. **Ms. Zia** (South Africa), making a general statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, following negotiations with the European Union, the Group of 77 had agreed to remove the phrase "in accordance with international law" from paragraph three of the original draft resolution, although it would have preferred to retain a specific reference to international law.

20. **Mr. Saleh** (Lebanon) said that the destruction of oil storage tanks by the Israeli air force had caused immense damage to the Lebanese environment and economy, some of which was irreversible.

21. The destruction of the oil tanks near the El-Jiyeh power plant was a deliberate act committed in full knowledge of the harmful effects on the environment. The international community had an obligation to remind Israel that the environment was not a legitimate target and that such acts would not be tolerated. Since international and customary international law prohibited pollution of the environment, Israel was legally bound to refrain from actions that could cause environmental harm.

22. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) said that the Spanish-speaking delegations were holding consultations to decide how to accurately reflect the title in Spanish.

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.26 and L.45)

Draft resolutions on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

23. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.45, which was being submitted by Mr. Fonseca (Brazil), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.26. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

24. **Mr. Fonseca** (Brazil), Vice-Chairperson, said that the draft resolution duly reflected the agreement reached during the informal consultations. He expressed his appreciation to the facilitator and the delegations who had participated in the negotiations.

25. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.45 was adopted.*

26. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.26 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 59: Training and research (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.38*)

Draft decision on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

27. **The Chairperson** introduced draft decision A/C.2/61/L.38*, which was being submitted by Ms. Zia (South Africa) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The draft decision had no programme budget implications.

28. **Mr. Atiyanto** (Indonesia) expressed his appreciation to the facilitator and the participating delegations for their efforts in reaching a compromise on the text. He hoped that the draft decision would be adopted by consensus.

29. *Draft decision A/C.2/61/L.38* was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

* The delegation of Belarus subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

United Nations A/C.2/61/SR.32

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Sixty-first session

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 32nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 1 December 2006, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Intelmann ..... (Estonia)

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Agenda item 51: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*)

(d) Commodities (*continued*)

Agenda item 53: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*)

Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) International migration and development (*continued*)

Agenda item 69: Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (*continued*)

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions (*continued*)

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Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

06-63699 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Agenda item 42: Report of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.46/Rev.1)

Draft resolution on the proclamation of international years

1. **Mr. Bialek** (Australia) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.46/Rev.1 on behalf of the original sponsors and Andorra, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Poland, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

2. **The Chairperson** announced that Austria, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Moldova, Monaco, Norway and Serbia also wished to join in sponsoring the draft resolution.

3. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.46/Rev.1 was adopted.*

Agenda item 51: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.14)

Draft resolution on international trade and development

4. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.14, which had no programme budget implications. She informed the Committee that a recorded vote had been requested.

5. **Mr. Le Roux** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution that had been submitted for negotiation had sent a strong signal to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the importance of resuming negotiations. The Group had drafted the text in such a way as to maintain all the issues contained in the Doha Declaration, while deliberately avoiding specific issues that were pertinent to the current negotiations in Geneva. The Group had thought that, by keeping the draft resolution general in nature, it would have been possible to reach consensus sooner.

6. The Group was extremely disappointed that it had not been possible to reach consensus. However, it believed that the draft resolution as it stood still sent a very strong signal on the need to resume the Doha Round and implement the original mandate of the Doha Declaration, so as to ensure that the development dimension was addressed as soon as possible.

7. **Mr. Tarragô** (Brazil), speaking on behalf of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), said that it was regrettable that, for the third consecutive year, the Committee had been unable to reach a consensus on the international trade and development resolution. It was once again disappointing that delegations had not shown the necessary vision to seize the opportunity to send a message of unity regarding the Doha Development Round.

8. The stalemate in the Doha Round was a cause for serious concern, particularly for WTO members. The United Nations could have helped to create an environment conducive to the resumption of WTO negotiations so that the long-overdue promises of a truly development-oriented multilateral trading system could finally be kept, in line with the statements made by world leaders at various international forums. Instead, by adopting the draft resolution by a vote, the Committee would be sending the message that it was divided, with some countries being committed to the Doha Round and others, perhaps, having second thoughts.

9. The single most important trade and development challenge was currently to put the negotiations back on track. Differences, while wide, should not be irreconcilable. All WTO members recognized that everyone could derive great benefits from an equitable and reinforced multilateral trading system. Political will and a constructive spirit were essential for the successful conclusion of the Doha Round. MERCOSUR regretted that delegations had been unable to show sufficient flexibility and commitment to overcome the obstacles preventing a consensus.

10. **Mr. Rosengren** (Finland), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting and on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Iceland, Moldova and Ukraine, said that the countries concerned would abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.14.

11. The European Union was disappointed about the outcome of consultations. While appreciating the considerable effort made by all the parties, it regretted

that it had not been possible to reach agreement and send a consensual message on the resumption of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations. It was in the interest of all States to send such a message, along with a clear recognition of the benefits of a successful conclusion of the Doha Round.

12. The European Union remained fully committed to the Doha Development Agenda, which continued to be the central priority of its trade policy, and to open markets, progressive trade liberalization and stronger multilateral rules. In that spirit, it would continue to work with all its WTO partners for a successful outcome of the Doha Round. All WTO members have a shared responsibility in the Doha Round, to which they should all contribute in accordance with their means. The European Union fully agreed that developing countries should do less than developed countries. Nevertheless, emerging economies should also open their markets, not least to increase South-South trade and in favour of the least developed countries, although the European Union could accept that the poorest developing countries made no, or very few, market opening commitments. However, the Doha Development Agenda remained a common endeavour of all WTO members, not a one-way street.

13. He would not mention all the elements of the draft resolution that were unacceptable to the European Union, but underlined that the draft resolution was unbalanced overall. In particular, the European Union could not agree with the singling-out of agriculture. The Doha Development Agenda did not concern only agriculture. Economic analyses had shown that industrial goods, services and rules, together with agriculture, were key to growth and development. To ignore or underplay other areas was wrong and did not reflect the broad and balanced Doha Development Agenda to which all States had agreed.

14. On other issues of interest for developing countries, such as action on Aid for Trade and duty-free and quota-free market access for the least developed countries' products, the draft did not reflect all the efforts made during consultations to reach consensual language. The European Union regretted that missed opportunity, since it remained committed to a significant development package.

15. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America) said that the United States was a leading advocate of trade liberalization. It had made bold proposals for ambitious results the previous year in Hong Kong and had recently presented a formula for balanced moves by the major trading countries, both developed and developing, that could put States on the path to achieving a successful Doha Round.

16. A successful Doha Round would impact on development, poverty eradication and the further integration of developing countries into the multilateral trading system. His delegation had hoped that the resolution would encourage progress on the Doha Development Agenda. It had negotiated in good faith and seen progress, and had therefore been disappointed when the Group of 77 and China had chosen to submit their original draft, rather than the version under negotiation. His delegation supported some elements of the current draft, but also noted several attempts to dictate the terms of resumption and the terms of the outcome of WTO negotiations. It would therefore vote against draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.14.

17. **Mr. Maksimychev** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation would abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.14. A decision on such an important matter that came under the Committee's jurisdiction should be taken by consensus. In his view, the Committee had not exhausted all the possibilities for consensus. He hoped that in the future the Committee would revert to its practice of adopting resolutions on international trade and development by consensus.

18. **Mr. Yun** Kang-hyeon (Republic of Korea) said that trade was the most efficient tool for poverty eradication and sustainable development. Special attention should therefore be paid to the development aspect during discussions about the international trade system.

19. The draft resolution did not accurately reflect the state of the Doha negotiations. To successfully conclude the talks, the interests of all participants should be taken into account in the procedures and in the final outcome in a balanced manner, across all agenda items. The draft before the Committee did not reflect that approach.

20. It was important to convey a strong and concerted request for an early resumption and a successful conclusion of negotiations. In that regard, it was regrettable that it was necessary to proceed to a vote. His delegation was eager for an early resumption of negotiations and was hoping for an ambitious and

balanced outcome, as originally agreed at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Doha in 2001. To that end, States must work out a meaningful and balanced package while properly addressing the development dimension. The text before the Committee did not fulfil those expectations. The Republic of Korea would therefore abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.14.

21. **Mr. Bialek** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of New Zealand, expressed disappointment that Member States had been unable to achieve consensus on the draft resolution, particularly at such a critical juncture in the Doha Round. The draft resolution as proposed did not significantly move the Doha negotiations forward and understated the important role played by the global rules-based trading system in reinforcing economic growth and development. The rules-based multilateral trading regime, as enshrined in WTO agreements, contributed greatly to global prosperity, poverty elimination and sustainable development.

22. The development dividend being sought by the draft resolution's proponents was most likely to come from improved market access in agriculture. An ambitious outcome on agriculture was critical if WTO was to fulfil its development promises. To break the current impasse, all WTO members would need to demonstrate flexibility and political will, and work towards achieving a balanced and ambitious outcome beneficial to all WTO members. The strongly worded statement on multilateral trade recently issued by Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders in Hanoi emphasized where efforts should be concentrated.

23. **Ms. Brown** (Canada) said that over the past few weeks her delegation had worked with others to achieve consensus on the draft resolution. It had seemed that States had been making constructive progress and that, in that spirit, delegations were willing to continue their negotiations. It was regrettable, then, that the Group of 77 and China had ended discussions and instead put forward a text that fell short of the desired goal.

24. Her delegation was disappointed with the draft resolution before the Committee and regretted that it had not been possible to agree on wording reflecting the need to support the Doha Round at such a critical time and the need for all major trading countries belonging to WTO to contribute to progress in the negotiations.

25. In various places, the text fell short of, or even misrepresented, commitments made elsewhere. In paragraph 6, regarding duty-free and quota-free access for the least developed countries, the wording was inconsistent with the agreement on that issue at the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Hong Kong in 2005, and the fact that such agreement had been predicated on the outcome of the remainder of the WTO negotiations that comprised the single undertaking of the Doha Development Agenda. Canada was, and remained, a strong supporter of the least developed countries. Its market access initiative for the least developed countries, in effect since 2003, was one of the most far-reaching preference schemes of any developed country.

26. Paragraph 12 mistakenly gave the impression that the rules relating to Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) were inconsistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity. It had been Canada's long-standing position that there were no inconsistencies between the two and that both agreements could be implemented in a mutually supportive way.

27. Paragraphs 15 and 16 were also unacceptable, as they went far beyond the agreed text that had emerged from the recommendations of the WTO-related Task Forces on the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries and on the Aid for Trade Initiative.

28. Lastly, the references to "coercive economic measures" in paragraph 5 and "arbitrary and abusive use" in paragraph 9 were inappropriate.

29. For all those reasons, Canada would abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.14.

30. **Mr. Ali** (Syrian Arab Republic) wished to know which delegation had requested a recorded vote.

31. **The Chairperson** said that the recorded vote had been requested by the United States.

32. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.14.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados,

Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

33. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.14 was adopted by 107 votes to 1, with 52 abstentions.*

34. **Ms. Nagahara** (Japan) said that Japan, believing that trade facilitation was of vital importance to developing countries, had participated constructively in the discussion on the draft resolution. It was, therefore, regrettable that the Committee had been unable to reach a consensus and that a text not properly reflecting the negotiations had been put forward. Developed and developing countries must together send a positive and balanced message for the early resumption and success of the Doha Round. Because the draft resolution in question did not send such a message, Japan had abstained in the vote.

35. However, Japan continued to support the trade facilitation and economic growth of developing countries through its Development Initiative, announced in December 2005, in which it expressed its commitment to provide duty-free and quota-free market access for essentially all products originating from all the least developed countries and to contribute to building infrastructure. Japan would make every effort to work towards the early resumption and conclusion of the Doha Round.

36. **Ms. Houngbedji** (Benin), speaking on behalf of all the least developed countries, noted that almost all the delegations that had explained their position had claimed to support and to have opened their markets to those countries. Unfortunately, when the time came to put that commitment in binding language in resolutions, those same delegations were reluctant. The primary objective, as reaffirmed in the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and in Doha and Hong Kong, was clearly to give market access to all the least developed countries and all their products. Until such time as the General Assembly could send a clear message in that regard, the least developed countries would stand ready to take any action that they could. The General Assembly, meanwhile, should be consistent in its actions when pursuing that message.

(d) Commodities (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.2 and L.52)

Draft resolutions on the International Year of Natural Fibres

37. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.52, which was being submitted by Ms. Gomes (Portugal), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.2. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

38. **Ms. Gomes** (Portugal), Rapporteur, orally corrected draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.52 as follows: the phrase "in accordance with the guidelines for international years and anniversaries as contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67" in paragraph 3 and the phrase "in accordance with the guidelines of the Economic and Social Council" in paragraph 4 should both be deleted.

39. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.52, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

40. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.2 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 53: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.16 and L.51)

Draft resolution on the International Year of Sanitation 2008

41. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.51, which was being submitted by Mr. Fonseca (Brazil), Vice-Chairperson, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.16. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

42. **Mr. Elbakly** (Egypt) said that Barbados, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, Honduras, Ireland, Israel, Mexico and Monaco had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

43. **The Chairperson** said that Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burundi, Cambodia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, the Gambia, Grenada, Hungary, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Mongolia, Morocco, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe also wished to join the sponsors.

44. **Mr. Fonseca** (Brazil), Vice-Chairperson, withdrew draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.51 and introduced the same text as draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.16/Rev.1. He hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

45. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.16/Rev.1 was adopted.*

46. **Mr. Kodera** (Japan) said that the timing of the resolution was significant: it had been adopted in the same year as the 2006 Human Development Report, which also focused on water and sanitation and called for a global partnership for action. He hoped that both documents would raise awareness about the lack of safe drinking water and basic sanitation and facilitate action at the local, national and international levels.

Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) International migration and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.12 and L.47*)

Draft resolution on international migration and development

47. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.47*, which was being submitted by Mr. Barry (Senegal), Vice-Chairperson, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.12. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

48. **Mr. Barry** (Senegal), Vice-Chairperson, recommended the draft resolution to the Committee and expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

49. **Mr. Suárez Salvia** (Argentina) suggested changes to the Spanish translation of the last preambular paragraph of the draft resolution: "*una iniciativa dirigida por los Estados*" should be moved to the end of the paragraph, and the word "*los*" should be deleted.

50. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.47* was adopted.*

51. **Mr. Le Roux** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed appreciation to the facilitator for his efforts in achieving consensus. In striving to meet internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, it was necessary to take a focused approach to issues in order to reverse underdevelopment, poverty and skills flight. In particular, "brain drain" was an important issue to developing countries and continued to demand the Committee's attention.

52. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals was central to eradicating poverty and unemployment,

fostering sustainable development, reducing recourse to forced and irregular migration and thereby facilitating migration out of choice. Forced migration and its economic effects on host countries should be given due consideration, especially with regard to situations involving refugees and displaced persons that resulted from foreign occupation and armed hostilities, as no real development could take place in such situations.

53. He looked forward to a constructive debate on item 55 (b) during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly and, in particular, to a discussion of options for appropriate follow-up to the High-level Dialogue within the United Nations.

54. **Ms. Fernández** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, noted that, at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, a constructive debate would be held on the developments following the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and welcomed the fact that follow-up to that Dialogue had already begun. In that connection, she drew attention to the EU-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, which had been held that week in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. She especially looked forward to the Global Forum on Migration and Development to be held in Belgium in 2007. Lastly, she expressed her appreciation to the facilitator for his efforts in upholding the positive spirit of the High-level Dialogue throughout the intense negotiations on the resolution.

55. **Mr. Siregar** (Indonesia) expressed appreciation to all of the delegations involved in the negotiations on the resolution and congratulated the Committee on reaching consensus on such an important issue.

56. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.12 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 69: Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance (*continued*)

(b) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions (*continued*) (A/C.2/61/L.10/Rev.2)

Draft resolution on international assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola

57. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.10/Rev.2, which was being submitted by Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.10/Rev.1. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

58. **Mr. Gaspar Martins** (Angola) said that Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Finland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Suriname, Ukraine and Zambia should be added to the list of sponsors.

59. **The Chairperson** said that Afghanistan, Barbados, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chile, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, El Salvador, Eritrea, the Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, the Netherlands, the Niger, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Republic of Tanzania had joined the sponsors.

60. *Draft resolution A/C.2/61/L.10/Rev.2 was adopted.*

61. **Mr. Gaspar Martins** (Angola) welcomed the resolution's emphasis on national ownership, recognizing Angola's leadership in the pursuit of sustainable economic growth and development; indeed, national ownership was vital to the success of any post-conflict process. He was therefore extremely grateful to all Member States for having achieved consensus on the resolution.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.